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Industrial Development Board

Twelfth session

SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 6th MEETING

Held at the Vienna International Centre, Vienna,
on Wednesday, 11 May 1994, at 8 p.m.

President: Mr. EL HUSSEIN (Sudan)

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The meeting was called to order at 8.40 p.m.

INTRODUCTION OF DRAFT DECISIONS (IDB.12/L.2-L.10, L.12-15)

1. The PRESIDENT invited the Board to review all items that were still open for the adoption of decisions (items 4-10). A number of draft decisions, which had all been discussed in the informal consultations established with the aim of facilitating the drafting of decisions, were before the Board for consideration (IDB.12/L.2-L.10, L.12-15).

2. Mrs. OK (Turkey), speaking as chairman of the informal consultations, informed the Board that consensus had been reached on all the draft texts submitted. Regarding a draft decision on developments in South Africa, submitted under agenda item 10, it had been decided to recommend that the President should submit that draft as a declaration.

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3. The PRESIDENT explained that the draft decisions approved by consensus in the informal consultations had been brought to his attention by the chairman and that he was in turn submitting them to the Board as drafts of the President.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL FOR 1993 ON THE ACTIVITIES OF THE ORGANIZATION (continued) (IDB.12/2; IDB.12/CRP.2; IDB.12/L.2, L.3, L.5)

4. The PRESIDENT drew the Board's attention to three draft decisions on item 4: draft decision IDB.12/L.3 on the annual report in general, draft decision IDB.12/L.2 on the UNIDO Staff Pension Committee and draft decision IDB.12/L.5 on further cost-cutting measures.

5. Draft decision IDB.12/L.3 was adopted.

6. Draft decision IDB.12/L.2 was adopted.

7. Draft decision IDB.12/L.5 was adopted.

8. Mr. ARCILLA (Philippines) said that he greatly appreciated the support of those concerned in reaching a consensus on the draft decision just adopted on further cost-cutting measures (IDB.12/L.5). He also wished to thank those States that had initially had misgivings but had subsequently joined in the consensus. He believed that the decision now adopted would further strengthen the Director-General's resolve in accomplishing his tasks and would ultimately lead to improvements in the lot of those whose interests UNIDO was committed to serve. Finally, he wished to express his appreciation for the cooperative and receptive attitude displayed by the Professional staff, to whom he pledged continuing support for their legitimate concerns and overall welfare.

UNIDO TECHNICAL COOPERATION ACTIVITIES IN 1993 (continued) (IDB.12/8; IDB.12/CRP.1; IDB.12/L.6)

9. The PRESIDENT drew the Board's attention to draft decision IDB.12/L.6.

10. The draft decision was adopted.

INDUSTRIALIZATION OF THE LEAST DEVELOPED COUNTRIES IN THE 1990s (continued) (IDB.12/6; IDB.12/L.10)

11. The PRESIDENT drew the Board's attention to draft decision IDB.12/L.10.

12. The draft decision was adopted.

UNIDO'S CONTRIBUTION TO THE SYSTEM-WIDE ACTION PLAN ON DRUG ABUSE CONTROL (continued) (IDB.12/4; IDB.12/L.12)

13. The PRESIDENT drew the Board's attention to draft decision IDB.12/L.12.

14. The draft decision was adopted.

ECONOMIC AND TECHNICAL COOPERATION AMONG DEVELOPING COUNTRIES (continued) (IDB.12/3; IDB.12/L.8)

15. The PRESIDENT drew the Board's attention to draft decision IDB.12/L.8.

16. The draft decision was adopted.

FUTURE POLICY FRAMEWORK OF UNIDO - ORGANIZATIONAL AND STAFF STRUCTURE (continued) (IDB.12/5; IDB.12/CRP.4; IDB.12/L.15)

17. The PRESIDENT drew the Board's attention to draft decision IDB.12/L.15.

18. The draft decision was adopted subject to minor drafting corrections.

19. Mr. OCHOA (Venezuela), speaking on behalf of the Group of 77, said, with reference to the decision just adopted (IDB.12/L.15), that the Group wished to express its appreciation to the Director-General for his efforts so far to implement the decisions and resolutions adopted by the General Conference at its fifth session, particularly in connection with the restructuring reforms of the Organization.

20. The Group also wished to express its concern over some aspects of that restructuring process, particularly in regard to the low level of representation of its member States in the Secretariat. It would request the Director-General to ensure that the representation of developing countries at the D-2 level was maintained at least at the current number of four posts and that the representation of developing countries at the Professional levels was increased. The Group was confident that experienced, qualified and competent persons could be found in the developing countries for the senior management posts of UNIDO.

21. It was in a spirit of cooperation and compromise that the Group had not insisted on including those points in the decision just adopted by the Board, although it considered them to be implicitly contained in that decision. The Group would continue to monitor developments closely and would, if necessary, raise the matter for further action in the policy-making organs of the Organization.

OPERATIONAL ACTIVITIES FOR DEVELOPMENT (continued) (IDB.12/9; IDB.12/L.4, L.7, L.9)

22. The PRESIDENT drew the Board's attention to three draft decisions on item 10: draft decision IDB.12/L.7 on operational activities for development in general, draft decision IDB.12/L.9 on UNIDO field representation and draft decision IDB.12/L.4 on the Industrial Development Decade for Africa.

23. Draft decision IDB.12/L.7 was adopted.

24. Draft decision IDB.12/L.9 was adopted.

25. Draft decision IDB.12/L.4 was adopted.

PROVISIONAL AGENDA AND DATE OF THE THIRTEENTH SESSION (IDB.12/CRP.3; IDB.12/L.13, L.14)

26. The PRESIDENT drew the Board's attention to two draft decisions on item 11: draft decision IDB.12/L.13 on the provisional agenda and date of the thirteenth session and draft decision IDB.12/L.14 on the fourteenth session of the Board.

27. Draft decison IDB.12/L.13 was adopted.

28. Draft decision IDB.12/L.14 was adopted.

DRAFT DECLARATION ON DEVELOPMENTS IN SOUTH AFRICA (IDB.12/L.11)

29. The PRESIDENT, referring to the draft decision concerning South Africa, submitted under item 10, said that he considered the subject to be so important that the decision deserved to be highlighted as a special declaration without reference to any particular item. Following the recommendation of the informal consultations, he had slightly redrafted the text, which he was submitting to the Board in the form of a draft declaration (IDB.12/L.11).

30. Draft declaration IDB.12/L.11 was adopted by acclamation.

ADOPTION OF THE REPORT OF THE TWELFTH SESSION

31. Mr. CURIA (Argentina), Rapporteur, introducing the draft report of the Board on its twelfth session (IDB.12/L.1), said that it contained many blanks because the current session had ended earlier than expected. It was not possible to provide a more complete report at the moment, but the final report would faithfully reflect the work of the session.

32. The PRESIDENT said that, if he heard no objections, he would take it that the Board wished to adopt the draft report as a whole on the understanding that the Rapporteur would finalize it, in consultation with his "Friends", as soon as possible after the close of the session.

33. It was so decided.

CLOSURE OF THE TWELFTH SESSION

34. Mr. DE MARIA Y CAMPOS (Director-General), congratulating the President of the Board, the Bureau and the participants on the constructive and efficient manner in which the session had been conducted, welcomed the continued support of Member States for the reform process. UNIDO was in the process of introducing models of management and administration which were flexible, transparent, reliable, efficient and effective, and which should enable the Organization to ensure that its activities matched the objectives sought in the reform process. His task over the coming months would be to complete the reform process and to ensure that the focus of the programme of work of UNIDO was in line with the directions laid down by the Board. The Yaoundé Declaration had already provided the framework for focusing priorities more effectively and for enhancing cooperation with Africa and the least developed countries.

35. At the same time, UNIDO had a number of tasks to perform at the international level. For example the Agenda for Development would be discussed in the High-Level Segment of the Economic and Social Council in June 1994, and it would be his intention on that occasion to ensure that the paramount role of the industrial sector was recognized in the generation of jobs, income, savings and investment. Otherwise it would be difficult if not impossible to bridge the gap between the developing and the industrialized countries. To undertake such initiatives at the international level, a new management dynamic had to be introduced into the Organization. While much had already been done, there was more progress to be made in improving management style, implementing new procedures and establishing a new institutional culture in which to bring the reforms to a successful conclusion. He would do everything possible to encourage teamwork, which was one of the most important challenges the Organization faced.

36. The question of the mobilization of resources had to be tackled in such a way as to enable the Organization to respond fully to the requests for its services. In the months to come a particular effort would be made to secure funds through negotiations with UNDP, international and regional financial institutions and organizations, and other possible sources of finance. Work would continue in the Task Force on Rationalization of Expenditure with a view to securing support for a balanced budget in the operational field, and in that regard he would be paying particular attention to factors such as home leave, on which he would be reporting to the forthcoming meeting of the Programme and Budget Committee.

37. At the present stage in UNIDO's consolidation process, it was necessary to begin gradually to strengthen the Organization's representation in the field. The Secretariat agreed with Member States that despite administrative and financial difficulties the only way of improving UNIDO's image and making sure that its programmes were better suited to the needs of recipient countries was by having a more effective field presence. For that purpose a programme was being drawn up, on the basis of different sources of funding.

38. Whereas budgetary constraints obliged the Organization to continue with its policy of controlling expenditure and rationalizing costs, it had to pursue and build up its work programme, and hence needed to be able to recruit highly qualified staff. He would be devoting particular attention to building up professional teams in every division and section as required. He appealed to Member States to submit appropriate candidates through the usual channels to fill professional posts, giving priority to women candidates. He had noted the statement made by the Group of 77 and would do everything possible to ensure that the selection process secured the presentation of appropriate candidates from developing countries; other international organizations had policies to facilitate that process, and he would examine these. Current recruitment was proceeding in the desired direction, but there was still a need for a better regional balance. Efforts were now being made to publicize vacancies in specialized journals, with the result that countries which had not done so in the past were now putting forward candidates. New staff members from developing countries and from countries in the process of economic transition would soon be appearing in the Organization. The results of that policy should be evident by the beginning of 1995, and he would be giving a progress report to the Board at its thirteenth session.

39. A great deal had been achieved, but it was important not to fall into the trap of complacency or excessive optimism. Although good intentions had been expressed, especially with regard to

funding, much remained to be done. Some Member States which had not made payments for some time were now doing so, and new contributions would be sought. While there had been some positive results, the situation was not entirely satisfactory; he would be giving a progress report at the next session of the Board.

40. The PRESIDENT expressed his gratitude to delegations and to the members of the Bureau for their cooperation during the session. The chairmen of the regional groups deserved special thanks for their constructive contributions towards the achievement of consensus decisions on the difficult issues that had faced the Board. He also wished to thank the Director-General and his staff for their contributions to the success of the session.

41. The session had been an important one, following after the fifth session of the General Conference at Yaoundé, at which landmark decisions had been taken and which had been characterized by a global spirit of accommodation. The task of the Board had been to shape the Organization's policies in the light of the general guidelines given by the Yaoundé Conference.

42. The session had also been held in the week which had seen the emergence of a new South Africa after a long history of suffering, and the Declaration which the Board had adopted by acclamation bore witness to its feelings towards the new South Africa.

43. As had emerged from the Director-General's reports and statements, the Organization had moved out of a period of darkness and uncertainty and had shed the poor image which had been associated with its work. Its financial situation had also begun to improve, and that undoubtedly reflected the confidence Member States felt in its future. The task of ensuring the success of UNIDO was a challenge to developed and developing countries alike. The generous contributions made by the donor countries towards ensuring that the Organization could accomplish its goals were appreciated by all. The beneficiaries of the Organization's services were also anxious to see it succeed. There was a community of interest in the success of UNIDO, which should be seen as a model of cooperation between North and South, based on a shared vision and a sense of solidarity, bearing in mind that the real objective of the activities of UNIDO was the improvement of the quality of life of human beings in the developing world.

The meeting rose at 9.35 p.m.